

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

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SUBJECT Port of Riga

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. At 2000 hours GMT on 4 August 1955, 14 minesweepers and two small MTB's were at anchor near Mikelbaka Light (N 57-36, E 22-59). Vessels of the same type were in the Gulf of Riga on the following day. Twelve minesweepers were carrying out formation exercises in groups of three. The vessels changed formation from column to line of bearing, back to column, to line abreast, to line of bearing to starboard and port, etc.

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The vessels had a raised forecastle with gun, a bridge with a signal mast on top, a break in the deck at the after end of the bridge, two or three low funnels (some of the vessels had a red and yellow ring at the top of the funnels), a very low afterdeck, equipment for mine laying on the stern, and antiaircraft guns on the forecastle, on the bridge, and on the afterdeck.

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2. On the same day, seven MTB's seemed to be performing speed tests just outside the mouth of the Daugava River. They were very small with a low silhouette. The bridge almost looked like only a little shelter. The vessels made great speed.
3. In the naval harbor on the southwest bank of the Daugava River, just inside the mouth, there were one large and nine smaller submarines. The large one was of about 1,500 tons with a streamlined hull and conning tower, a gun on the foredeck, a low conning tower with a pointed structure on the forward edge of the top (see sketch). The others were much smaller but with angular lines and were recollective of the Norwegian old B-4 type. Farther in the naval harbor, several submarines and other naval vessels, all small types, could be seen, as could a large tender or troop transport ship. Surface vessels of the same types as those described above were also seen at the lowermost portion of the export harbor and Andrey Harbor.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").

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4. There was great air activity; condensation trails from jet planes were seen nearly all day, but there was no activity of such planes at the airfield near the cement factory. On the other hand, there was much traffic of four-engine propeller driven planes. One evening 14 of these were counted coming in for a landing. They had straight wings and tail surfaces and a large single tail fin, no windows in the fuselage, and were marked with red stars under the wings. [redacted] Every-day, late in the afternoon and early in the evening, parachute jumping exercises were performed over the field. There seemed to be only one plane in use, a DC-3, twin-engine type. Six men at a time jumped from the door in the side of the plane. Some of the jumpers used two small parachutes instead of the usual one big one. 25X1
5. [redacted] ship took on a pilot just outside the river mouth and passed through the obstruction at the mouth on signal from the naval station. At the extreme northern end of the coal quay north of the export quay, there were several coal cranes and large piles of coal and grayish substance [redacted]. The quay was being surfaced with stone. Outside the refrigeration warehouse there were six diesel-driven portal cranes, which ran on rails set in the quay. While unloading, the crane arms were not raised or lowered in order to place the load but the cranes themselves were driven back and forth on the rails in order to place each load correctly. They had a lifting capacity of five tons. The entire export harbor was equipped with this type of crane. The quay seemed very well equipped. Excavation work was being done on the southernmost portion of the export quay. Large-scale diving operations were going on north of the refrigeration warehouse. 25X1  
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6. The inspection commission came aboard after the ship had come to the quay. The radio transmitter, lifeboat transmitter, and cameras were sealed. The rest of the inspection on arrival took place in the lounge. On departure, the entire ship from truck to keel was carefully searched for stowaways. The commission was courteous and good-natured but very thorough. It was headed by a major, with gold shoulder-boards and one large star, with a senior lieutenant as the next in command, who wore gold-shoulder boards and three small stars in a triangle. On their caps they had a red band, and on the front of the caps a star with a hammer and sickle.
7. The military element in the population was not particularly marked. There seemed to be a small garrison in Andrey Harbor.
8. [redacted] the machinery class condition. [redacted] characterized [redacted] as very modern and in first-made in the USSR. 25X1  
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9. Bathing in the harbor was strictly forbidden. The punishment was a two ruble fine and revocation of one's shore pass. [redacted] this was attributable to the fear of stowaways. [redacted] blackmarketeering flourished more or less openly in the city. The crew sold a large number of stockings and ties. A pair of stockings was worth 30 rubles. The authorities realized fully that this was going on but they ignored it. 25X1  
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Sketch of Submarine at Riga



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